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[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.29 and Add.1)*]

68/128. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process, as an international initiative led by the Governments of participant States, has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society, as well as applicant States and international organizations,

Recalling that the elimination of conflict diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process, and stressing the need to continue its activities in order to achieve this objective,

Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries, and calling for the consistent

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implementation of commitments made by Kimberley Process participant States and the diamond industry and civil society organizations, as observers,

Acknowledging the successful role that the Kimberley Process has played in stemming the flow of conflict diamonds in the past decade of its existence and the significant developmental impact it has had in improving the lives of people dependent on the trade in diamonds, and noting that the plenary meeting of the Process, in looking towards the future, committed to continue to ensure that the Process remains relevant as a credible tool in curbing the illegal flow of rough diamonds,

Acknowledging also that the diamond sector is an important catalyst for promoting economic and social development, which are necessary for poverty reduction and meeting the requirements of the Millennium Development Goals in many producing countries, particularly in developing countries,

Bearing in mind the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for continued international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of the producing, exporting and importing States,

Noting that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources,

Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1459 (2003) of 28 January 2003, in which the Council strongly supported the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds,

Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme continues to have a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and would help to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Acknowledging that lessons learned from the Kimberley Process may be useful for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in its consideration of the countries included in its agenda, as appropriate,

Recalling its resolutions 55/56 of 1 December 2000, 56/263 of 13 March 2002, 57/302 of 15 April 2003, 58/290 of 14 April 2004, 59/144 of 15 December 2004, 60/182 of 20 December 2005, 61/28 of 4 December 2006, 62/11 of 26 November 2007, 63/134 of 11 December 2008, 64/109 of 11 December 2009, 65/137 of 16 December 2010, 66/252 of 25 January 2012 and 67/135 of 18 December 2012, in which it called for the development and implementation as well as a periodic review of proposals for a simple, effective and pragmatic international certification scheme for rough diamonds,

Welcoming, in this regard, the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in

[1] See A/57/489.

diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, nor hinder the development of the diamond industry,

Welcoming also the decision of the 54 Kimberley Process Participants, representing 81 countries, including the 28 members of the European Union represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Noting the outcomes of the eleventh plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, hosted in Johannesburg by South Africa from 19 to 22 November 2013,

Welcoming the important contribution to fulfilling the purposes of the Kimberley Process that has been made and continues to be made by civil society organizations from across participant countries, and the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council, which represents all aspects of the diamond industry in the Process, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming also the voluntary self-regulation initiatives for the diamond industry announced by the World Diamond Council, and recognizing that a system of such voluntary self-regulation contributes, as described in the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds,[1] to ensuring the effectiveness of national systems of internal control for rough diamonds,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all Participants have requisite national legislation coupled with effective and credible internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meeting minimum standards,

Welcoming the efforts to improve the normative framework of the Kimberley Process through the elaboration of new rules and procedural norms to regulate the activities of its working bodies, Participants and observers and the streamlining of the procedures for preparation and adoption of the decisions and documents of the Kimberley Process, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

1. *Reaffirms its strong and continuing support* for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] and the Kimberley Process as a whole;

2. *Recognizes* that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme can help to ensure the effective implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds and contributes to the prevention of future conflicts fuelled by diamonds, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;

3. *Welcomes* the admission in June 2013 of Mali as a full Participant in the Kimberley Process, as approved through written procedure;

4. *Recognizes* the important contributions that the international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds, including the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, have made to the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone;

5. *Notes* the efforts to further strengthen implementation of the Kimberley Process, including efforts to continue to examine the application of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme requirements in cross-border Internet sales;

6. *Also notes* the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 15 May 2003 granting a waiver with respect to the measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, effective from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2006, the decision of the General Council of 17 November 2006 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2012, and the decision of the General Council of 11 December 2012 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2018;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/135, [2] and congratulates the participating Governments, the regional economic integration organization, [3] the diamond industry and civil society organizations involved in the Process for contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

8. *Acknowledges* the progress made by Kimberley Process working groups, Participants and observers during 2013 in fulfilling the objectives set by the Chair to strengthen implementation of the peer review system, increase the transparency and accuracy of statistics, promote research into the traceability of diamonds, promote inclusiveness by broadening the level of involvement by Governments, industry and civil society in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, foster a sense of ownership by Participants, improve information and communication flows and enhance the capacity of the Certification Scheme to respond to emerging challenges;

9. *Notes* that the annual reporting process on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme implementation is the main comprehensive and regular source of information on the implementation of the Process provided by Participants, and calls upon Participants to submit consistent and substantive annual reports in order to conform to this requirement;

10. *Expresses appreciation* to Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, the Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa and Viet Nam for receiving review visits or missions in 2013, welcomes the commitment of those countries to continuously open their certification systems to reviews and improvements, and calls upon other Participants that have not already done so to make themselves available to receive review visits;

11. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation and enforcement, and in particular to ensure coordination of Kimberley Process actions in relation to the occurrence of fraudulent certificates, to apply vigilance and ensure the detection and reporting of shipments of suspicious origin and to facilitate the exchange of information in cases of infringement, and acknowledges with appreciation the increased level of collaboration among Participants and with the World Customs Organization in this matter;

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[2] A/68/649, annex.

[3] European Union.

12. *Stresses* that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, encourages Member States to contribute to the work of the Kimberley Process by seeking membership, participating actively in the Certification Scheme and complying with its undertakings, and acknowledges the importance of the increased involvement of civil society organizations in the Process;

13. *Calls upon* the Participants of the Kimberley Process to continue to articulate and improve rules and procedures to further enhance the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes with satisfaction the systematization of the work of the Process with respect to developing transparent and uniform rules and procedures and improving the mechanism for consultations and coordination within the Process, including through the adoption of rules related to non-compliance and statistical anomalies;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the willingness of Kimberley Process Participants and observers to support and provide technical assistance to those Participants experiencing temporary difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of the Kimberley Process in promoting economic development, particularly in the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector, and encourages an increased focus on issues related to development, including through the work of the Diamond Development Initiative;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the continued cooperation of the Kimberley Process with the United Nations on the issue of diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire, in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 2101 (2013) of 25 April 2013 and in line with the administrative decision on sharing information with the United Nations;[4]

17. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations of the review mission to Côte d'Ivoire, which took place from 30 September to 4 October 2013, acknowledges the important steps taken by Côte d'Ivoire to ensure compliance with Kimberley Process Certification Scheme minimum requirements pursuant to Security Council resolution 2101 (2013), notes that, in its 2013 final communiqué, the Kimberley Process plenary meeting recognized that Côte d'Ivoire has fulfilled the minimum requirements as far as possibly could be achieved under the United Nations embargo, and recalls that the Council, pursuant to its resolution 2101 (2013), will review measures in the light of progress made towards Kimberley Process implementation;

18. *Encourages* the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire to continue to provide support to Côte d'Ivoire to prepare it for implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

19. *Encourages* the Kimberley Process to continue to actively collaborate with the United Nations Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1584 (2005) of 1 February 2005, and, through liaison, with Côte d'Ivoire, with the ultimate objective of meeting the preconditions for the lifting of United Nations sanctions on the trade in rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire;

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[4] See A/64/559, annex, attachment I.

20. *Acknowledges* Liberia's active involvement in the work carried out by the Kimberley Process regional team for cooperation in the Mano River region, encourages the Process, in collaboration with the Panel of Experts on Liberia, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2025 (2011) of 14 December 2011, to support the efforts of Liberia to continue reinforcing its internal controls system and to continue to address the challenges to the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes the review visit to Liberia from 18 to 27 March 2013;

21. *Welcomes* the initiative from Kimberley Process Participants in West Africa to enhance their cooperation on Kimberley Process implementation and policy harmonization efforts in the context of the regional approach for the Mano River region, and acknowledges the region's plans for developing a regional strategy and road map as the outcome of a high-level workshop on regional cooperation in West Africa early in 2014;

22. *Notes* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process restated the administrative decision on the temporary suspension of the Central African Republic, as approved through written procedure of 23 May 2013, and the reported willingness of the Central African Republic to address issues of non-compliance with Kimberley Process Certification Scheme minimum requirements and strengthen its internal control systems;

23. *Recalls* the decision of the plenary meeting regarding the continued participation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the Kimberley Process, acknowledges the positive step represented by the submissions presented by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in response to the decision of the plenary meeting, and invites the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to continue its efforts to fully reintegrate into the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme through the steps outlined in the Kimberley Process communiqué of 30 November 2012;[5]

24. *Notes with appreciation* the role played by the Kimberley Process Administrative Support Mechanism, with the World Diamond Council acting as host for 2013;

25. *Notes* the discussions during 2013 on the subject of the Kimberley Process reforms and the proposed changes to the definition of "conflict diamonds", among other proposals, also notes that consensus was not reached on whether or not to change the definition of "conflict diamonds", and further notes that the Chair, Participants and observers were encouraged to continue dialogue on this issue;

26. *Acknowledges* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process adopted a proposal for modifications to the Kimberley Process core document aimed at strengthening the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme within its current remit;

27. *Acknowledges* the adoption by the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process of seven administrative decisions, on technical definitions; guidelines for the preparation, review and analysis of Kimberley Process statistical data; the chairmanship of Kimberley Process working bodies; Kimberley Process Participants' applications for membership and participation in working bodies; protection guidelines for the use of the Kimberley Process logo; the dissolution of the Participation and Selection Committees and the formation of the Committee on Participation and Chairmanship; and technical certificates for scientific research;

[5] A/67/640, annex, enclosure.

28. *Notes with appreciation* the continued support of the Antwerp World Diamond Centre for the Kimberley Process website, which has been enhanced significantly to make it a more efficient and effective tool;

29. *Reaffirms* the importance of the tripartite nature of the Kimberley Process, and welcomes the commitment of the plenary meeting to continue its constructive engagement with civil society in recognition of the role that civil society plays in the Kimberley Process;

30. *Encourages* further improvement in enforcement of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes the new efforts made to increase information-sharing and collaboration in enforcement;

31. *Acknowledges with great appreciation* the important contribution that South Africa, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2013, has made to curbing the trade in conflict diamonds, and welcomes the selection of China as the Chair and Angola as the Vice-Chair of the Process for 2014;

32. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the Process;

33. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict".

69th plenary meeting
18 December 2013